



Schools and Bed Bugs



Bed bugs, while an annoyance, have not been found to carry disease; however have been found to cause panic. With the increased number of reported cases of bed bugs in our communities, it is recommended schools make available to the community information on bed bugs and the school plan. It is critical to remain calm and not panic. General guidelines for schools follow:

- *Provide bed bug information/education for all staff, students, families, and the community. Examples: Bed bug biology and living preference within 10 feet of a sleeping human.*
- *Identify community resources for future use. Examples: Local Public Health, pest control managers, community regulations on the responsibility of landlords.*
- *Develop a regular inspection schedule. Examples: Every month check the structure (home/business) for insects and remove clutter to minimize hiding places.*
- *If an insect sighting is reported, inspect the area.*
- *If an insect is found, capture the insect intact and seek insect identification by a professional expert. Examples: local pest manager, ISU pest identification.*
- *If the insect is identified as a bed bug by a professional expert, consider management options and remain calm.*
- *Assess the individual situation on a case by case basis, refer to resources, and develop a plan to assist the student, family, and school.*

Resources

Iowa Department of Public Health

Iowa Healthy Homes Initiative http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/healthy_homes.asp

Fact Sheet http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/board_of_health_assistance/factsheet_bed_bugs.pdf

Michigan Department of Community Health-Bed Bugs: What Schools Need to Know.

http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/0,1607,7-186-26346_25949_55522---,00.html

Iowa State University

Diagnostic Clinic. <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/iin/contact>

Household Pest Identification Form. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/IC449.pdf>

Ken Holscher, Entomology, *Bed bugs in Iowa are more plentiful, but can be avoided with care.*

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/taylor/news/bed+bugs.htm>

IdentifyUS, Identification products & services. *Bed Bugs-School recommendations.*

<http://identify.us.com/bed-bugs/BedBug-FAQS/what-should-schools-do.html>

Identification of suspected Bed Bug infestations. <http://identify.us.com/bed-bugs/bed-bug-document-downloads/bed-bug-mgmt-chart.pdf>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). *Joint Statement on Bed*

Bug Control in the United States. http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Publications/Bed_Bugs_CDC-EPA_Statement.htm

U.S. EPA. Top Ten Bed Bug Tips. <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/bed-bugs-faq-fs.html>

All resources accessed online December 2010. Contact: Charlotte Burt, charlotte.burt@iowa.gov